



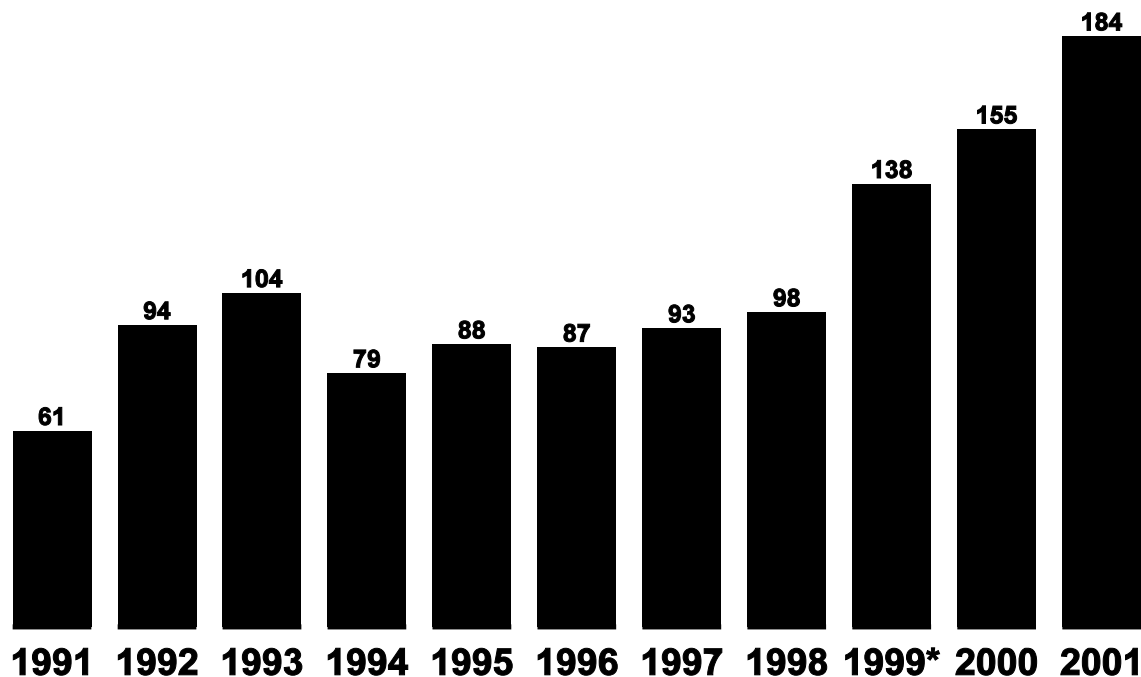
Nebraska State Fire Marshal's Office 2001 Firework Injuries

Last year's record high has unfortunately been broken. One-hundred eighty four (184) injuries were reported by Nebraska hospitals in 2001 - a 16 percent increase.

Those receiving second-degree burns increased also saw a significant increase of 23 percent. Fractures and dismemberments decreased by one in 2001. However, one dismemberment involved the amputation of a leg as a result of injuries received from a pipe bomb.

The following graph shows the number of injuries for the last 11 years.

Firework Injuries



*1999 total includes nine injuries during the millennium firework season.

In 2001 more people were injured because they were in the vicinity of the firework when it went off. Three of these injuries involved infants that were in car seats. Either Roman Candles misfired or the debris from them landed on the infants causing second degree burns to most of their bodies. It is also disturbing to not that the number of people injured at public displays from flying debris almost tripled from last year. The severity of these injuries also increased. Out of the 16 injured, three people suffered 2nd degree burns, two received 3rd degree burns, and one had partial sight loss. Despite the increase in injuries a public display is still the safest way to view fireworks.

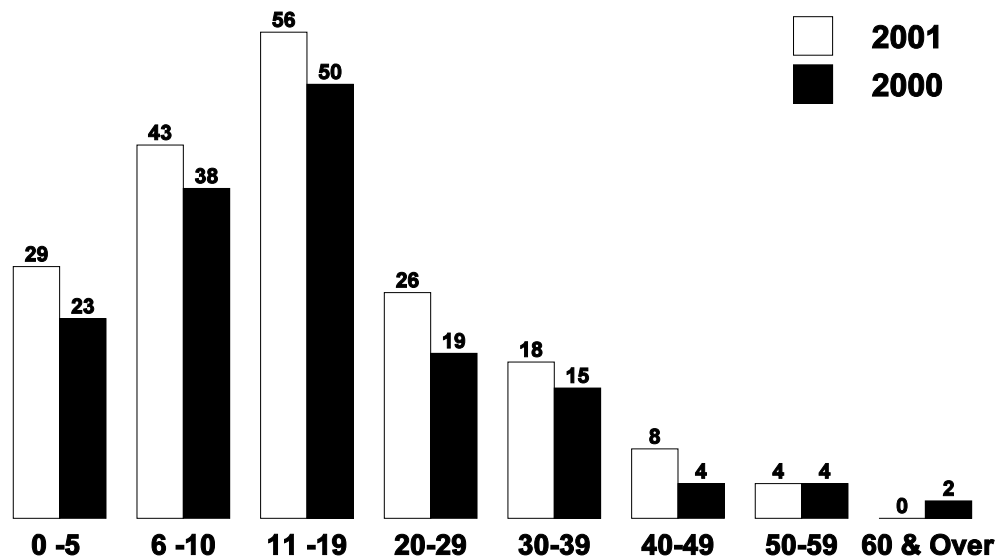
Firecrackers continue to cause the most injuries The number of injuries from illegal fireworks (M-80's; cherry bombs; bottle, sky and missile rockets) decreased slightly, from 19 in 2000 to 16 in 2001.

DEVICE	2000	2001	DEVICE	2000	2001
Firecracker	33	45	Cherry Bomb	2	2
M-80	7	3	Smoke Bomb	11	13
Base Fountain	8	10	Party Popper	4	1
Cone Fountain	1	2	Wheel	0	0
Roman Candle	16	22	Sky Rocket	3	0
Bottle Rocket	6	9	Missile Rocket	1	2
Parachute	1	3	Sparkler	8	14
Ground Spinner	5	6	Homemade	5	6
Other	28	27	Unknown	16	19

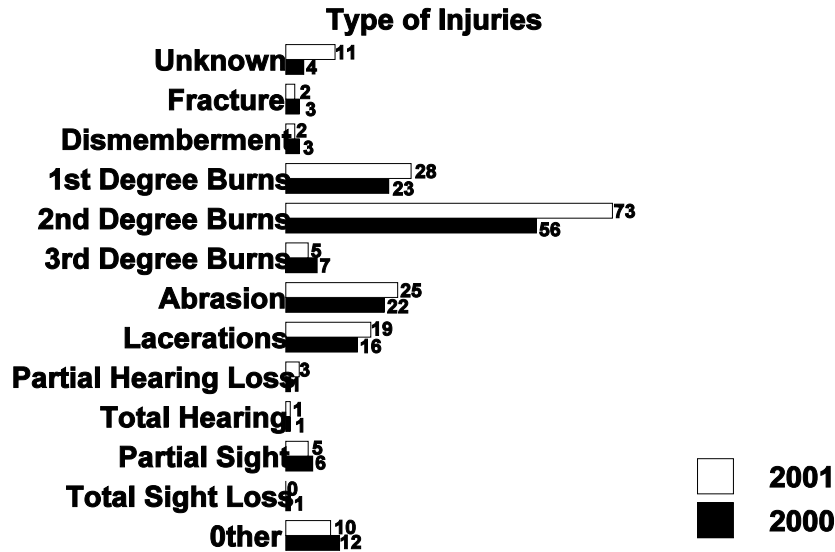
The number of children age 5 and under who were injured increased slightly in 2001. Overall children and young adults (age 19 and under) continue to receive the most injuries of any age group (70 percent). Males (126) are twice as likely to receive injuries than females (52). The sex was not reported for six injuries.

Firework Injuries

by Age

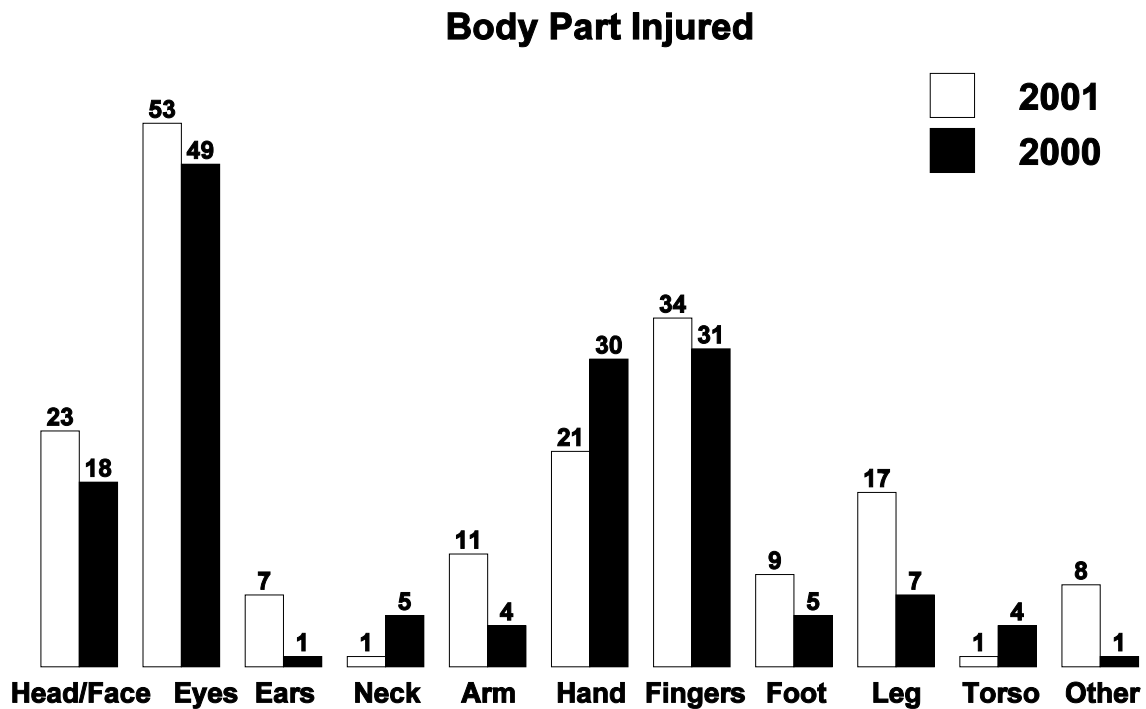


Firework Injuries



Eyes injuries continue to be the most injured part of the body. Most eye injuries result from residue in the air after fireworks are shot off or from being struck in the eye with punk or fireworks, e.g., bottle rockets.

Firework Injuries



The reasons given for the injuries are listed below.

- * Firecracker exploded in hand.
- * Placed smoke bomb in glass jar
- * Infant strapped in car seat while people were lighting fireworks. Spark from roman candle went into car seat.
- * Infant in car seat. Roman candle tipped over and shot into car seat burning infant on head, face, eyes, neck, arms, hands, and torso.
- * One-month old said to be 100 feet from fireworks when roman candle fell over and exploded in child's car seat.
- * Debris fell back into eyes
- * Rapid ignition
- * Lighting firecracker in a bottle and bottle broke and cut toe.
- * Sitting in yard when fireworks that had been fired landed on arm.
- * Sister holding punk when child walked into it and was poked in the eye.
- * Device malfunctioned.
- * Amputation below the knee as a result of injuries from pipe bomb.
- * Stepped on sparkler.
- * Viewing public display when debris landed in eye.
- * Base fountain exploded at base sending fragments into patient's leg.
- * Looking in at/stood over parachute when it went off.
- * Dropped firecracker into artillery shell.
- * Shooting roman candles at each other.
- * Ball from roman candle hit child in skirt. Skirt caught on fire causing 2nd degree burns to leg.
- * Wooden stick on sparkler broke and burning torch landed on child causing 2nd degree burns to arm.
- * Bottle rocket came at patient resulting in a skull fracture.
- * Pile of expended fireworks flashed when child & friend ignited pile.
- * Fell on sparkler
- * Roman candle fell over and shot into chair child was sitting in.
- * Thought base fountain finished firing. Patient went up to light new fireworks when fountain went off again in patient's face.
- * Base fountain had multiple shots. It misfired sending one under patient's chair where it went off.
- * Roman candle fell over, shot sideways into street. Went through open door causing unknown injuries to young child inside the house.
- * Smoke bomb exploded while patient lighting it.
- * Four-year old child found fireworks and lit them with a candle.

Firework Injuries

